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Elizabeth Kean named IF Engineer of the Year

by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — Elizabeth S. Kean was presented with the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate's 2002 Ralph I. Cole Engineer of the Year Award during ceremonies Oct. 16.

Also honored at the directorate's Heritage Day ceremonies were Dr. David H. Hughes, who was presented with the Fred I. Diamond Award in recognition of having the best technical paper published during the past year, and Dr. Kevin A. Kwiat, who received the directorate's Basic Research Award.

The Cole Award, named in honor of the first chief scientist at Rome Air Development Center (renamed Rome Laboratory in 1990 and now part of the AFRL), is conferred annually on a laboratory engineer for engineering achievements in design, research, development, or management during the past three years.

Kean, a Rome native, is a senior computer scientist in the Information Systems Division. In that position, she is senior program manager in the Systems Concepts and Applications Branch, responsible for applying new technologies for the warfighter in the area of information technology resource and enterprise management. She is currently managing the development of a system situational awareness capability for the Air Operations Center of the Future.

Kean was cited specifically for outstanding engineering management of the Master Caution Panel program, transitioning badly needed administrative tools to the complex information systems being used by warfighters. Her personal intervention, sound judgment and skill were directly responsible for the program's success.

A 24-year member of the Rome staff, Kean received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Utica College and earned her master's degree in computer science from Syracuse University.

Hughes, also a native of Rome, has been a member of the laboratory staff for the past 30 months. He is currently a physicist in the directorate's Information Grid Division, where he performs basic research in wave propagation, quantum information sciences, as well as program management in image processing and quantum optics.

He holds a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Missouri-Rolla and a master's in the same field from Hunter College - City University of New York. He was awarded his doctorate degree in physics from Washington State University.

Hughes was selected for the Diamond Award, named in honor of the laboratory's chief scientist from 1981 to 1992, for his contributions to the paper "Moment Densities of Propagating Wave Fields," accepted for publication in the *Journal of Modern Optics*.

Kwiat, a native of Utica, has been a member of the Rome staff for more than 20 years. He is currently a senior computer engineer in the Information Grid Division, where he is responsible for exploring ways to adapt techniques from fault-tolerant computing to solve information assurance problems.

He was awarded his two bachelor's degrees from Utica College and his master's and doctorate degrees from Syracuse University. He currently serves as an adjunct professor of computer science at the State University of New York Institute of Technology, Utica College and Hamilton College.

Kwiat was cited for his groundbreaking research into "Information Survivability in Distributed Systems." His novel adaptation of concepts from the field of fault-tolerant design to address critical needs within the Information Assurance community has opened a vibrant, productive and critical area of research supporting Air Force needs.